

15 October 1952

STAT

Mr. Alvahn Holmes

Dear Mr. Holmes:

General Smith has asked me to acknowledge your kind letter of October 1, 1952. I believe that his public statements since September 29th have completely clarified his position and I think you will agree that his forthright handling of the unfortunate publicity resulting from his testimony has been highly successful in keeping the matter out of the political arena.

Sincerely,

Assistant to the Director

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REL:aml

Distr: Orig - addressee

1 - signer

1 - reading

1 - official w/basic ✓

Alvahn Holmes

October 1, 1952

General Bedell Smith
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

It is lamentable that so much testimony given in confidence to congressional committees is seized upon and used for political expedience. Your case is just one more glaring example.

The fact that you were quoted as limiting your statement to government agencies probably added to the temptation to use it as a political football. I wonder if to your statement could be added the fact that we must also face the very great probability that communists have also infiltrated into the armed forces, munitions and airplane plants, as well as the fighting front.

It seems to me that a statement of this sort is needed even though Stevenson and Eisenhower agree not to use your testimony, for there are bound to be many attacks from campaigners whose job in the campaign seems to be to smear.

Sincerely yours,

Alvahn Holmes

Admin. Bly.

General Bedell Smith

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D. C.

